

# POOL AND SPA CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE

## WHAT CAN YOU DO?

**E**ven though we swim in it, pool water is still harmful to streams or storm drains. Pool water is treated to kill microbes that can make us sick or cause skin rashes. The nutrients, pH, and chlorine in pool water can also adversely affect fish and wildlife in waterbodies. Here's how to ensure the cleanliness of your pool and protect the environment.

- Pool and spa water must be dechlorinated before emptying into a ditch, on the ground, or into the storm drainage system. Contact your pool chemical supplier for the neutralizing chemicals you'll need. The rate of flow into a ditch or drainage system must be regulated so erosion, surcharging, or flooding doesn't result. Water discharged to the ground must not cross property lines or produce runoff. You may be able to discharge pool water to the sanitary sewer, if the pre-treatment unit of your sewer utility okays it.
- If pool or spa water cannot be dechlorinated, it must be discharged to the sanitary sewer. Prior to draining, your local sewer agency must be notified so they are aware of the volume of discharge and the potential effects of chlorine levels. A pool service company can help you determine the frequency of cleaning and backwash of filters.
- Hire a professional pool service company to collect all pool water for proper disposal. (Be sure and ask them where they'll dispose of it and the kinds of permits they have to do so.)
- Diatomaceous earth used in pool filters should not be discharged into surface waters, on the ground, or into storm drainage or septic systems. Dry it out as much as possible, bag it in plastic, and then dispose of it in the garbage.

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- Dispose of old chlorine and pool chemicals at a hazardous waste facility. Never put leftover dry chloring in the garbage- it if mixes with water, deadly gases or explosions may occur which can cause serious injuries.

For more information, contact Clark County Public Works, Environmental Services at 397-6118, ext. 4345